A pseudo-feedback-based approach to utilizing minimal explicit (true) feedback

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Using relevance feedback can substantially improve the effectiveness of ad hoc retrieval. In practice, there is often little relevance feedback available (if at all). This fact posts significant challenges. We address a setting wherein the minimal possible feedback is available; specifically, a single relevant document. We show that it is often the case that not using the given relevant document for the final relevance-feedback-based retrieval (as is standard practice), but rather another (pseudo relevant) document, can yield better retrieval performance. The pseudo relevant document is selected using a graph-based approach employed upon an initially retrieved list.